

Quiet Time Service Orchardhill Parish Church
Wednesday 7 February 2024

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to our Quiet Time service coming from Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church in Glasgow. Whether you are joining us live through “Zoom” or listening on the podcast, we are all invited to worship together and to take comfort from God’s constant presence. We share this quiet time within the embrace of God’s wondrous love, joined together by the Spirit of the Risen Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 we read: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived— the things God has prepared for those who love him.”

And in Proverbs 3:5 we read: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

Our theme this evening is trusting in our God who is always with us as we journey through life. In the good times and in the difficult times, we are never alone, for God is always by our side.

Let us come together in prayer. Let us pray:

Into your presence we come, Lord, for a few moments of quietness this evening. Bless the reading of your Word, the sharing of our fellowship and the prayers that will be heard. We come before you, with our own thoughts and feelings, our joys and our anxieties, in the highs and lows of life. May we never forget the many blessings you have shown to us. Help us to trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness for us and help us to stand firm in our faithfulness to you. As we listen to your word, open our eyes to your presence and open our lives to your grace and majesty. Amen.

Our reading this evening is Psalm 23.

This much celebrated psalm reminds us that throughout our lives — in times of plenty or want, in times of health and of sickness — God is good and worthy of our trust. The psalm uses the metaphor of a shepherd's care for his sheep to describe the wisdom, strength and kindness of our God. It

tells us that God is with us. He will provide for us. He will walk with us through the joys and the storms of life.

Psalm 23:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.

Our choice of music this evening is the wonderful hymn – *Christ is made the sure foundation*. The music was composed by Henry Purcell. It is being sung in Aberdeen's beautiful St Machar's Cathedral. Let's listen to it now.

[Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bC0tgG_ble)

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And now, let us come before God, let us pray together.

O God, we come before you in prayer to affirm that Christ IS the sure foundation and IS the corner-stone of our lives and of our beliefs. With your constant loving kindness, may you pour light into our lives that we might know your presence, your peace and your love. Lord, forgive us when we so often let you down. May we be always be guided by you. Trusting in you, we know that you are our companion along life's journey and we thank you that you are with us now. Lord, hear our prayers.

Lord of Peace, we live in such turbulent and violent times. Hear our prayers for our world and for those people whose lives have been so damaged by war. We pray for a peaceful world, where children can grow up without fear, where security rests on trust rather than threats, and

where nations fight against poverty and injustice rather than against each other. We hope for peace to be restored. We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations, not war and destruction. Lord, hear our prayers.

Loving God, please grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders so that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve. We bring before you all those who have been killed, injured or displaced, for the many families grieving the loss of someone dear. Wrap them in your loving embrace, we pray. We ask that the humanitarian aid of food and medical supplies that they so desperately need will reach them quickly. And we ask for your help in bringing about peace, by guiding leaders to agree to step back from the brink of war, to talk to each other and to find a peaceful solution to their differences. Lord, hear our prayers.

Compassionate God, we pray for communities closer to home. we pray for peace in the midst of political strife, social upheaval, and economic stress. Lord, to those in our city and beyond whose lives are blighted by poverty, deprivation or isolation, those who live in fear, who desperately need help and seek shelter in our cities, may their suffering be alleviated and comfort found. For families struggling with rising living costs, may the many community foodbanks provide regular support for them through such difficult times. Lord, hear our prayers.

Comforting God, we pray also for your protection and healing and we remember those who are suffering, mentally, physically and emotionally at this time. We pray for our loved ones and for those in our church and in our community who are unwell, for those undergoing treatment and for those in hospital. We remember those who are recently bereaved having lost someone close to them. In silence let our thoughts turn to them now.

[Moment of silence]

Embrace the frightened with your compassion; give strength to those in pain; hold the bereaved in your loving arms and give hope to those who are recovering. Lord, hear our prayers.

And finally, Lord, we thank you for our own church, our minister Gillian and her family, the church staff and all who help behind the scenes to allow us to worship together. Loving God, we pray for our congregation. May our worship be honest, passionate and honouring to you. May we have the great joy of seeing others come to faith in you. May we seek always to do your will and to help others who need support and comfort through difficult times. Watch over all of us, we pray, and keep us safe. Lord, in whom we place our trust, now and forever more, hear our prayers. Amen.

Let us say together the Lord's Prayer:

Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

And we finish with a Blessing:

May God's love surround each one of us,
God's Spirit guide us,
God's whisper cheer us,
God's peace calm us,
God's shield protect us,
God's wisdom arm us, wherever God may lead us.
Now and forever more. **AMEN**